



March 29, 2007

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Dear OEMC,

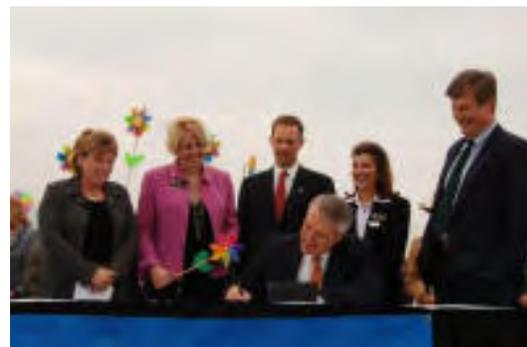


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[Governor Ritter Signs Landmark Energy Legislation](#)

Renewable energy advocates, energy providers, and lawmakers gathered with a backdrop of mountains and wind turbines at NREL's National Wind Test Center, as the Governor signed into law House Bill 1281 and Senate Bill 100. These two centerpieces of the New Energy Economy legislative agenda will support Colorado's commitment to becoming the energy capital of the nation. Both of these laws will aid to improve Colorado's economic and environmental security.



House Bill 1281 increases the state's requirement for utilities to get their electricity from renewable energy sources such as the sun, wind or biomass from the current 10 percent to 20 percent by 2020. Senate Bill 100

allows utilities to propose transmission plans and recover those investments from electric ratepayers. For more information on these two bills, visit www.leg.state.co.us.

Appropriately, the event was powered by renewable energy. OEMC's hydrogen powered fuel cell used hydrogen created through the Xcel and NREL wind to hydrogen project.

Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory Launches Renewable Fuels Venture

The newly formed Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory, the association of four of Colorado's lead research institutions, the University of Colorado at Boulder, the Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University and NREL announced its intention to further develop renewable fuels through the formation of the new Colorado Center for Biorefining and Biofuels (C2B2).

C2B2 is a research venture between large and small businesses and the Collaboratory to develop new biofuels and biorefining technologies and transfer these advances as rapidly as possible to the private sector.

Companies participate in C2B2 as a sponsor by paying a membership fee. These fees will fund shared research, and sponsors will have the opportunity to participate in the discoveries and patents generated by the shared research, with the goal of commercializing the new technologies as soon as possible.

The research projects of C2B2 will also create educational opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students, serving to train the next generation of chemical and biological engineers for our universities and private enterprise.

Vestas Selects Windsor for a Manufacturing Site

Gov. Ritter applauded the decision by Denmark-based Vestas to build a wind blade manufacturing plant in Windsor as a significant step forward in establishing Colorado as a national and global renewable energy leader.



"I'm extremely pleased Vestas will build its first North American manufacturing facility here in Colorado," Ritter

said. "As the 11th windiest state in the country, we're building a New Energy Economy that will create jobs, preserve our environment and protect our national security."

Construction on the plant is expected to begin this spring, with production scheduled to start in early 2008. At full capacity, the plant will produce 1,200 wind-turbine blades per year and employ up to 464 people.

The governor also said the legislature's passage last week of House Bill 1281 – which requires the state's large utility companies to offer 20 percent renewable energy by 2020 – will entice other manufacturers to locate in Colorado.

Colorado's 2007 New Energy Summit a Success!

The Colorado New Energy Summit held March 24, brought 1,000 participants to the Colorado Convention Center to discuss renewable energy. The event was presided over by Senator Salazar, Governor Ritter, and Mayor



Hickenlooper. Gov. Ritter spoke of his plan to use \$10 million in gaming fees to provide rebates to homeowners and small businesses who invest in alternative energy.

Ritter also emphasized the need for a greater amount of the state's power to come from solar, wind and other forms of energy. Other energy initiatives Ritter outlined include the appointment of a climate change coordinator and a program to reduce the use of petroleum and paper at state facilities by 25 percent and water by 10 percent over the next five years.

Ethanol Coalition Opens More Alternative Fueling Sites

The Governor's Ethanol Coalition has been busy in March with the grand openings of alternative fueling sites in Basalt, Evergreen, Greeley and Ft. Collins. Also, the City of Grand Junction celebrated an E85 groundbreaking ceremony which will provide fuel to City, County, and State vehicles.



In Fort Collins, Gov. Ritter joined Ft. Collins' Mayor Hutchinson and

Commissioner of Agriculture, John Stulp, at the opening of the first E85 site in Larimer County. Gov. Ritter then took a tour of Front Range Energy's ethanol plant in Windsor. Click here for more information on the E85 Coalition.

Photo courtesy: Sherri Barber/Ft.Collins Coloradoan

Upcoming April Energy Events

Tickets Available for the Global Warming Expo - Discover the opportunity to make a difference and attend the Global Warming Expo on Tuesday, April 3, at the Boulder Theater. Join OEMC's director Tom Plant and other scientific and political leaders for a unique evening exploring the opportunity of global warming. See a screening of the award-winning documentary, Kilowatt Ours, A Plan to Re-Energize America. Participants will also receive a Global Warming Action Kit worth over \$100. Tickets are only \$10, click here for more information.

Don't Miss LoDo's Earth Action Festival - Celebrate Earth Day all week April 23-27 at the LoDo Earth Action Festival. There will be free tours of the EPA and Alliance Center buildings, educational booths, tree planting, guest speakers at the Tattered Cover and an Arbor Day Celebration featuring The Reals band. Contact Libby (303-572-1536) at the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado for more information.

2007 Summer Outlook Conference - Learn what's to come this summer on energy supplies and prices at the DOE's Summer Energy Outlook Conference on Tuesday, April 17, in Denver, Colorado. The conference will feature presentations from energy industry leaders and government experts will review western transmission concerns and energy emergency planning. Make informed and developed policy decisions by learning more about the future of energy markets at this conference. Visit www.ncsl.org/programs/energy/SummerEnergyConf407.htm to register and to see the agenda.

OEMC receives federal funding, including support from the U.S. Department of Energy. For more information or input, please contact Megan.Castle@state.co.us



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